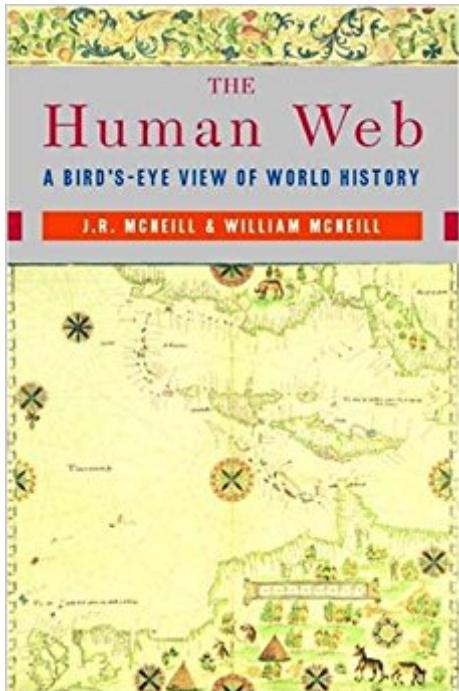


The book was found

The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View Of World History



Synopsis

Why did the first civilizations emerge when and where they did? How did Islam become a unifying force in the world of its birth? What enabled the West to project its goods and power around the world from the fifteenth century on? Why was agriculture invented seven times and the steam engine just once? World-historical questions such as these, the subjects of major works by Jared Diamond, David Landes, and others, are now of great moment as global frictions increase. In a spirited and original contribution to this quickening discussion, two renowned historians, father and son, explore the webs that have drawn humans together in patterns of interaction and exchange, cooperation and competition, since earliest times. Whether small or large, loose or dense, these webs have provided the medium for the movement of ideas, goods, power, and money within and across cultures, societies, and nations. From the thin, localized webs that characterized agricultural communities twelve thousand years ago, through the denser, more interactive metropolitan webs that surrounded ancient Sumer, Athens, and Timbuktu, to the electrified global web that today envelops virtually the entire world in a maelstrom of cooperation and competition, J. R. McNeill and William H. McNeill show human webs to be a key component of world history and a revealing framework of analysis. Avoiding any determinism, environmental or cultural, the McNeills give us a synthesizing picture of the big patterns of world history in a rich, open-ended, concise account.

Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (December 15, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393925684

ISBN-13: 978-0393925685

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #38,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > History & Culture > History #148 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Sociology #188 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Computer Science

Customer Reviews

Cultural cheerleaders constantly shout about how lucky we are to live in an age of miracles, a utopia of technology and progress. Everything is just great (if you cram most of reality under the bed). But

the folks who rip off their blinders know better. They can perceive huge and growing crises that cannot be well addressed via the pursuit of shopping and entertainment. They can see that itâ™s time to learn, to think, and to change. Understanding how we got into this bog of predicaments requires learning, lots of learning. For this, we need our superheroes, the historians. William McNeill, and his son John, heard the calls for help, and came to the rescue. William once tried to boil the human journey down to one book, but it was 829 pages, too big for general readers. Johnâ™s vision was human history in 200 pages, and he teamed up with his father to write it. The finished product was 350 pages, and titled *The Human Web*. The book slices human history into time blocks, and provides snapshots of the world during each period. Itâ™s not a sleep-inducing recital of kings, empires, wars, and dates. Itâ™s about trends â” in technology, weaponry, religion, worldviews, and environmental impacts. The McNeills framed their discussion based on a model of webs, which are networks of communication and trade. Throughout the book, they take readers on an interesting promenade through the ages. Letâ™s take a peek at a few of their topics. For most of the human journey, our hunter-gatherer phase, webs were small nomadic clans. They werenâ™t completely isolated. For example, the freakishly powerful new technology of bows and arrows made it much easier to deplete game and enemies.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History
Burnt Orange Planner, Agenda, Organizer for Students, (Undated) Large 8.5 X 11, Weekly View, Monthly View, Yearly View
The Wills Eye Manual: Office and Emergency Room Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Disease (Rhee, The Wills Eye Manual)
Eye Shadow Techniques: Amazing and good looking eye shadow techniques for every kind of eye shapes.
Nursing: Human Science And Human Care (Watson, Nursing: Human Science and Human Care)
Child Labor: A Global View (A World View of Social Issues)
The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World
Eye to Eye: How Animals See The World
A Bird Is a Bird
Bird Eating Bird: Poems (National Poetry Series)
Feathers: A Beautiful Look at a Bird's Most Unique Feature (Bird Appreciation)
Bird Cards: The Healing Power of the Bird Kingdom
Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life
Children's Book: The Bird Who Loved To MOO! [Children's books about animals & picture books for kids]: Children's Bird Books
Smashed Potatoes: A Kid'S-Eye View of the Kitchen
The God's Eye View
Third Eye: Third Eye, Mind Power, Intuition & Psychic Awareness: Spiritual Enlightenment
The Wills Eye Manual: Office and Emergency Room Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Disease
Color Atlas and Synopsis of Clinical Ophthalmology -- Wills Eye Institute -- Glaucoma (Wills Eye Institute Atlas Series)
Color Atlas and Synopsis of Clinical Ophthalmology -- Wills Eye Institute -- Retina (Wills Eye Institute Atlas Series)

[Dmca](#)